

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An adhesion preventive material comprising a cross-linking polysaccharide derivative containing at least one active ester group introduced in a polysaccharide side chain, which is capable of reacting with an active hydrogen-containing group, and being capable of forming a crosslinked material due to covalent binding of the active ester group and ~~[[an]]~~ the active hydrogen-containing group upon contact with water under an alkaline condition.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1, wherein the active hydrogen-containing ~~active-containing~~ group is a hydroxyl group in a polysaccharide molecule, and the polysaccharide derivative is self-crosslinking.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein the active hydrogen-containing group is an active hydrogen-containing group on ~~[[the]]~~ a biological surface, and the polysaccharide derivative is capable of adhering ~~has adhesiveness~~ to the biological surface.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the active ester group is an ester group in which an electrophilic group is bound to a carbonyl carbon thereof.

Claim 5 (Original): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 4, wherein the electrophilic group is a group introduced from an N-hydroxyamine based compound.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the polysaccharide derivative contains the active ester group in an amount of from 0.1 to 2 mmoles/g on the basis of the dry weight thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the polysaccharide derivative further contains a carboxyl group and/or a carboxyalkyl group.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the polysaccharide derivative is of a non-salt type.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 7 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein a raw material polysaccharide into which the active ester group is introduced is a polysaccharide which is soluble in an aprotic polar solvent at a temperature between 60 °C and 120 °C in a non-salt type thereof in a precursor stage of the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative containing a carboxyl group and/or a carboxyalkyl group.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the raw material polysaccharide into which the active

ester group is introduced is a polysaccharide which contains neither a carboxyl group nor a carboxyalkyl group by itself.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the alkaline condition is in the pH range of from 7.5 to 12.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~[[An]]~~ The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1, further ~~comprising a crosslinking polysaccharide composition containing (A) the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 and (C) a~~ polymer other than the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative ~~[[A)]]~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~[[An]]~~ The adhesion preventive material according to claim 1, further ~~comprising a crosslinking polysaccharide composition containing (A) the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 and (B) a pH~~ adjuster in a non-mixed state with the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative ~~[[A)]]~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The adhesion preventive material ~~comprising a cross-linking polysaccharide composition~~ according to claim 13, which further comprises ~~contains~~ ~~[[C)]]~~ a polymer other than the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative ~~[[A)]]~~.

Claim 15 (New): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 2, wherein the active hydrogen-containing group is an active hydrogen-containing group on a biological surface, and the polysaccharide derivative is capable of adhering to the biological surface.

Claim 16 (New): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 2, wherein the active ester group is an ester group in which an electrophilic group is bound to a carbonyl carbon thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 2, wherein the polysaccharide derivative contains the active ester group in an amount of from 0.1 to 2 mmoles/g on the basis of the dry weight thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 2, wherein the polysaccharide derivative further contains a carboxyl group and/or a carboxyalkyl group.

Claim 19 (New): The adhesion preventive material according to claim 2, wherein the polysaccharide derivative is of a non-salt type.

Claim 20 (New): A method for reducing or preventing biological adhesion comprising reacting the adhesion preventive material according to claim 1 at a site in the presence of water and under an alkaline condition.